CLAIMS:

1. Disk drive unit (1) for a disk, which disk drive unit (1) comprises a pickup unit (4) mounted to a slide (8) of a slide mechanism (6), which slide mechanism (6) is adapted to move the pickup unit (4) along the disk between a home position and a read and/or write position, the slide mechanism (6) comprising a driven first transmission member (12) which is operatively connected to the slide (8) for moving the slide (8) and a driving second transmission member (13) which is only in engagement with the first transmission member (12) when the pickup unit (4) is in the read and/or write position, and wherein the pickup unit (4) and the second transmission member (13) comprise engagement members (18, 19) which are adapted to come into engagement at least when the second transmission member (13) is not in engagement with the first transmission member (12) so as to move the pickup unit (4) away from the home position, which movement causes the first and second transmission members (12, 13) to engage.

2. Disk drive unit (1) according to claim 1, wherein the engagement member (18) of the pickup unit (4) is operatively coupled to an actuator (11) of the pickup unit (4), and wherein the engagement member (18) of the pickup unit (4) is adapted to come into engagement with the engagement member (19) of the second transmission member (13) owing to the action of the actuator (11) of the pickup unit (4).

3. Disk drive unit (1) according to claim 2, wherein the engagement member of the pickup unit is a cam (18) at a bearing plate (9) of the pickup unit (4), which bearing plate (9) is operatively coupled to the actuator (11) of the pickup unit (4) and is movable, preferably rotatable about a pivoting pin (10), under the action of the actuator (11) of the pickup unit (4) in order to move the cam (18) into a position in which it is enabled to come into engagement with the engagement member (19) of the second transmission member (13).

4. Disk drive unit (1) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the second transmission member (13) is a gear wheel (13).

5. Disk drive unit (1) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the engagement member (19) of the second transmission member (13) is a protrusion (19) provided on the second transmission member (13) in a position such that it is enabled to come into engagement with the engagement member (18) of the pickup unit (4).

6. Disk drive unit (1) according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the first transmission member (12) is a gear rack (12) which is positioned such that the gear rack (12) is in engagement with the gear wheel (13) when the pickup unit (4) is in its read and/or write position, and such that the gear rack (12) is out of engagement with the gear wheel (13) when the pickup unit (4) is in its home position.

7. Disk drive unit (1) according to any one of claims 3 to 6, wherein the engagement of the engagement members (18, 19) of the pickup unit (4) and the second transmission member (13) is caused by a movement of the second transmission member (13) and the simultaneous movement of the engagement member (18) of the pickup unit (4) into the position where it is enabled to come into engagement with the engagement member (19) of the second transmission member (13).

8. Disk drive unit (1) according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising a control unit that is programmed such that the drive of the second transmission member (13) consists of a sequence of stepped driving movements, which sequence is stopped when the first and the second transmission member (12, 13) are in engagement, or when a preset amount of driving movements is reached.

9. Disk drive unit (1) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the engagement of the first and the second transmission member (12, 13) is detected by a detecting member.

10. Disk drive unit (1) according tot claim 9, wherein the detecting member is formed by the pickup unit (4).

11. Disk drive unit (1) according to claim 10, wherein the control unit is programmed such that the driving movement of the second transmission member (13) is stopped when the pickup unit (4) detects the engagement of the first and the second

transmission member (12, 13) by detecting a surface of a disk which is placed in the disk drive unit (1).

12. Disk drive unit (1) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the second transmission member (13) is operatively connected to a motor (14) for driving the second transmission member (13).

13. A device for reading and/or writing information from/on an optical disk, provided with the disk drive unit as claimed in any of the preceding Claims.